

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 NIAMEY 03254 251654Z

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 DRC-01 /058 W

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R 251445Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6597

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 3254

E.O. 11652: NGDS

TAGS: PINS, NG

SUBJECT: STUDENT BOYCOTT NIAMEY

REF: NIAMEY 2742

SUMMARY: NATIONAL LYCEE STUDENTS BEGAN BOYCOTT OF CLASSES OCTOBER 22 IN PROTEST OF SUSPENSION OF BOARDING FACILITIES. GON PLACED TROOPS AROUND NIAMEY'S OTHER SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN FUTILE ATTEMPT PREVENT BOYCOTT FROM SPREADING. CURRENTLY MOST OF NIAMEY'S SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS ON STRIKE. MINOR CLASHES BETWEEN STUDENTS AND ARMY HAVE RESULTED. END SUMMARY.

1. NATIONAL LYCEE STUDENT ON STRIKE SINCE OCTOBER 22 PROTESTING AGAINST GON ABOLITION BOARDING FACILITIES AND INADEQUATE REPLACEMENT BY STIPEND (DOLS 15 PER MONTH). GON IMMEDIATELY DISPATCHED POLICE AND ARMY REINFORCEMENTS TO PREVENT VANDALISM AND STRIKE FROM SPREADING. MINOR CONFRONTATIONS BETWEEN STUDENTS AND POLICE WHICH OCCURRED TUESDAY REPORTEDLY RESULTED IN A FEW POLICE AND BYSTANDERS INJURED BY ROCKS.

2. LYCEE STUDENTS ISSUED ANTI-GOVERNMENT TRACT OCTOBER 24 ACCUSING GON OF CORRUPTION AND SPECIFICALLY MISUSE OF THE NATIONAL SOLIDARITY FUND. THEY ALSO MARCHED TO COLLEGE ISSA BERI, COLLEGE MARIAMA, AND LYCEE DES JEUNES FILLES TO TRY TO PERSUADE THOSE STUDENTS TO JOIN IN BOYCOTT, BUT WERE QUICKLY DISPERSED BY POLICE AND ARMY.

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PAGE 02 NIAMEY 03254 251654Z

3. HOWEVER, STUDENTS AT LYCEE DES JEUNES FILLES, COLLEGE

MARIAMA, AND TWO OF THE CITY'S COLLEGES D'ENSEIGNEMENT GENERAL

VOTED TO BOYCOTT CLASSES OCTOBER 25 IN A SHOW OF SOLIDARITY.

COMMENT: STUDENTS UP TO NOW HAVE HAD LITTLE MORAL SUPPORT FROM PUBLIC. SUSPENSION OF BOARDING FACILITIES WITH ONLY TOKEN STIPEND, HOWEVER, HAS WORKED REAL HARDSHIP ON STUDENTS AND GIVEN THEM GRIEVANCE AROUND WHICH TO RALLY AND PERHAPS EVEN GAIN SOME SYMPATHY.

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## Message Attributes

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